

5315 - 33rd Court, SE
Lacey, Washington 98503

September 24, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-204B
Washington, DC 20554

Docket # 98-67
03-123

Dear Ms. Dortch:

My name is Guy Leon Curtis. I have been deaf since I was six years old. I am deeply concern about some of the Commissioners' opinions on the video relay program. I truly believe this video relay system is a gift from Heaven. I was able to communicate with anyone at ease. At this time, I have had the Sorenson VRS system since March 2004. I hardly ever use the TTY (TDD).

Please allow me to demonstrate why the video relay is the way to go for my wife and I, as well as for all 28 million deaf people in the country.

When I used to use the TTY relay to call a state or private agency, or insurance company, I would get the push button system (push 1 for....; push 2 for; etc) or an answering machine. When I tell the operator to push a certain button, or to leave a message, the relay operator has to dial again. If I left a message, I am at the mercy of the relay operator to relay the message. All I got from the relay operator, "your message is completed". I have no way knowing if my message was repeated exactly the way I wanted to say. **This is not "functional equivalent".**

Using the video relay, I was able to watch the video relay operator on the TV screen and I can read the lips repeating my message to the other party. Or if it comes to push the button system, we were able to follow it thoroughly and were able to push a certain button on the spot. No need to dial again. **This is "functional equivalent".**

In the state of Washington alone, we have over 100 deaf individuals using video relay, either through TV or the computer, and the numbers are growing fast. If the commissioners decide not to support the video relay; thousands of deaf people throughout the United States will be very upset.

The words I received from people from Washington, DC, that the Democrats support the Video system and the Republicans are against it. I must say that I am a Republican and I am for the video relay program. I think it is time for the Commissioners

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to work together as nonpartisan. It is not a party issue; it is an issue for the rights of all deaf people in the United States; a right to communicate.

I endorse this video relay program and I sincerely hope the Commissioners will endorse the video relay program unanimously.

Thank you for your time to address this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Leon Curtis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Guy Leon Curtis
A citizen taxpayer